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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR,
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND
CONSULTANTS ON FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1950, in the Office of Director

Present: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Mr. Phillips
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Winant
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

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Mr. Barrett opened the meeting by referring to the arrangements put into effect by the State Department for coordinating information policy guidance in connection with the Korean situation. He referred specifically to the inter-departmental policy coordinating group which had been organized on an ad hoc basis under Mr. Joseph B. Phillips. Mr. Phillips, he said, would be available to come in for discussion of policy guidance if desired.

With Mr. Phillips participating, there was general discussion of the work of the ad hoc coordinating group and the Information Policy Advisory Staff (P/POL) which is responsible for formulating current guidances. Admiral Stevens welcomed the arrangements which had been made and referred to his memorandum to Mr. Barrett suggesting the inclusion of Navy and Air Force members on this group, in addition to the JSPD and Army representatives now meeting with the group.

Mr. Barrett accepted the suggestion of Admiral Stevens on an ad hoc basis and asked whether some military personnel might also be assigned to P/POL to assist in the actual preparation of guidances. Admiral Stevens thought that some of the Service personnel now assigned to IFIS and sitting with the ad hoc group could be detailed to work with the Policy Advisory Staff. The Executive Secretary outlined some of the problems arising in connection with the fast issuance and clearance of current guidance material.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Winant whether he had any comments on NSRB's plans in connection with censorship. Mr. Winant said that he had no report on this subject, but that Mr. Jacobus had reviewed the status of NSRB plans at an IFIS meeting. Mr. Oechsner made a brief report.

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Turning to the problem of domestic information, Mr. Barrett called attention to the continuing need for coordination of public statements, prepared speeches and other types of public relations materials. At the request of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Oechsner, reported that a meeting had been held as a result of an IFIS staff study, and that specific recommendations for more effective coordination were in preparation. Mr. Barrett added that the State Department had taken steps to designate a person to be responsible for reporting coordinated domestic announcements or statements with foreign implications. It was agreed that further steps in this direction were necessary and desirable.

Mr. Barrett then raised the question of policy content of our propaganda. He said that the State Department was reviewing the question of identification of Soviet responsibility for the North Korean aggression. Admiral Stevens cautioned against a precipitous change in our present policy and General Magruder and [redacted] referred to a decision, approved by the Department, to permit the National Committee for Free Europe to use certain material attributing responsibility to the Soviets. Mr. Winant raised the question of our policy with respect to China and General Magruder commented on the need for long range policy regarding our aims in Korea beyond the 38th parallel. Mr. Barrett indicated that these problems were under review.

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In concluding the meeting, Mr. Barrett stressed the need for more intensive work on slogans and labels.

W. T. Stone - IFIO

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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR,
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND
CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, JULY 31, 1950, OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Present: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Central Intelligence Agency - []

In opening the meeting Mr. Barrett invited the consultants to review the documentary film on the Korean situation produced by the State Department's Motion Picture Division for world wide distribution with foreign language soundtrack. He said the film would be shown at the end of the meeting.

Admiral Stevens raised the question of the frequency of consultants meetings, and asked whether the consultants might meet on a regular basis. Mr. Barrett said that this was the first item on his agenda, and that he strongly favored meeting once a week at a fixed time. After brief discussion it was agreed that the meetings would be held each week on Monday at 3:30. Special meetings could be convened if necessary.

Mr. Barrett reported on a meeting which he had attended at the White House on July 26, 1950, with Messrs. Early, Ross and Elsey to discuss coordination of speeches, public statements and press briefings. There had been general agreement that further coordination of public statements was required in the present situation. Mr. Barrett said the White House was designating a person to be responsible for coordination in this field. The State Department will also designate one person for this problem.

General Magruder called attention to the semi-annual report of the Secretary of Defense and suggested that the State Department might wish to give its informal comment on the draft of the section on new weapons. A copy of this section was left with the Executive Secretary.

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Admiral Stevens indicated that the Army and Air Force was giving adequate distribution to State Department information policy guidance material, but he felt that more effective distribution might be given by the Navy and that this matter might be looked into.

With regard to the status of NSC 74, Mr. Barrett reported that the State Department had approved the report on the terms proposed by the National Security Council subject to the comment that further study should be given to the organization for the subsequent stages of war. Pending such further study, the Department reserves its judgment on the subsequent stages. Admiral Stevens indicated that questions had been raised from the legal point of view in the Defense Department in connection with the use of the term "directives." General Magruder made a brief off-the-record comment.

In connection with NSC 74, Mr. Barrett suggested an informal exchange of views regarding the feasibility and desirability of activating the interim board in the present situation. He said that, as he had not discussed this question with the responsible policy officers of the State Department, he suggested an exchange of personal ideas without regard to official views of departments. There followed a general off-the-record discussion of the functions and responsibilities of such a board. The Executive Secretary noted that IFIS was preparing a statement of functions which should be completed within the next week.

On adjourning the meeting, the Consultants reviewed the documentary film on Korea.

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